



Carrie and Cory

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

280 Madison Avenue North
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110-1812

April 20, 2006

The Honorable Jay Inslee
House of Representatives
18560 First Ave. NE, Suite E800
Shoreline, WA 98155-2150

Dear Congressman,

Thank you for organizing Monday's meeting to discuss the issues involving the clean up remedy for the Wyckoff Superfund Site. As you are keenly aware, this is an important project for our community, and bringing together the multiple agencies and constituent groups helps all involved achieve a better understanding of the challenging issues before us. As property owner of the site and a steward for the community, the City is very concerned with the final remedy that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will provide for the property.

In 2004, the City reached formal agreement with EPA limiting City liability at the site and will soon sign a similar agreement with the State. However, the City has not been directly involved in discussions that EPA and the State are having regarding the selection of the final site remedy. As the City has plans to develop the property as a park, the City attempted to be included in these discussions last summer, prior to taking on full ownership of the property. The City (along with the Park District) now owns the entire site, and going forward, we expect to be fully involved in any of the important discussions addressing site cleanup.

The City and community had high hopes for the pilot steam treatment remedy. Unfortunately, EPA indicates that as designed, thermal treatment cannot successfully be utilized for site clean up, primarily because of high design and implementation costs. A copy of the draft *Wyckoff/Eagle Harbor Superfund Site Soil and Groundwater Operable Units Engineering Evaluation of Groundwater and Soil Remediation Scenarios, April 2005*, was provided to the City last summer. In light of the EPA position regarding thermal treatment, we were expecting a final *Engineering Evaluation* in which the City could provide comments to EPA prior to their selection of final remedy for the Wyckoff site, but we have not yet received such a document.

DARLENE KORDONOWY, MAYOR

Phone: (206) 842-2545 Fax: (206) 780-8600

mayor@ci.bainbridge-island.wa.us

www.ci.bainbridge-island.wa.us

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As I have stated in two letters to the EPA, dated July 26, 2004 and July 6, 2005 respectively, the City remains supportive of a remedy that reduces contamination at the site, protects human and environmental health, and allows maximum public use and enjoyment. In addition, EPA should include source removal as part of any final clean up solution for the site.

It was clear to me from the meeting on Monday that the EPA needs to take a step back, slow the process down, and involve the community in a dialog about the alternatives available for site clean up before making a permanent decision on the remedy. As I now understand the EPA's intended process (referred to as an Explanation of Significant Difference, or ESD), the EPA will be issuing some sort of decision document and providing a 30-day comment period as the mechanism to make their final decision for this site. Full public understanding and community involvement needs to be provided before the EPA uses the ESD to select the remedy. The public deserves to know that all efforts to actually clean the site have been explored in depth by the EPA before the agency takes action and makes their final decision on the Superfund clean up for the site.

I appreciate your continued involvement and support in assuring that EPA is doing the best it can in administering the Superfund program, not only in our local community and our state, but throughout the nation.

Sincerely,



Darlene Kordonowy
Mayor

DAK:lh, cec

cc: City Council
Daniel D. Opalski, Director, Office of Environmental Cleanup, EPA
Jim Pendowski, Toxics Cleanup Program Manager, Department of Ecology
Terry Lande, Director, Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
Janet Knox, Association of Bainbridge Communities